


Spring 2015

# Regional Review: Reaching New Heights in the Region Spring 2015

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# REGIONAL REVIEW

*Reaching new heights in the region*



## WELCOME

**DR. DENNIS GEORGE**

Associate Provost for  
Regional Higher Education

From all of us at the WKU [Regional Campuses](#), I would like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome to the inaugural issue of our regional campuses e-newsletter. As these pages

illustrate, we have many exciting events taking place on each of our campuses. Our goal is to provide, "Access to Success" for those students in our region who, for a variety of reasons, have chosen to earn their WKU degree closer to home. We are proud to extend WKU's reach into the southcentral Kentucky area and to provide quality educational and co-curricular experiences for a growing number of students who would not otherwise have these opportunities. I invite you to enjoy the newsletter and explore the rich variety of avenues through which we engage regional campus students and the communities we serve. If you have not been out to our regional campuses this year, I encourage you to stop by for a visit. Our doors are always open, and we are only a short distance down the road.

**Make a Gift  
TODAY!**

## DOWN-HOME GATHERING ON THE HILL



Following the President's convocation in August, WKU Regional Campuses hosted a meet and greet at WKU's Faculty House. Remarks and the introduction of Dr. Evelyn Ellis, new Regional Chancellor at WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox took place. Guests enjoyed a southern style brunch and live music.

[wku.edu/regionalcampuses](http://wku.edu/regionalcampuses)



## HOMEcoming 2014

WKU Regional Campuses participated in Homecoming activities including the parade and tailgating event. Our Homecoming queen candidate, Erika Wood, rode in a red Corvette

that led the parade walkers along the parade route followed by a Humvee provided by the National Guard and our three campus vehicles. Erika participated in homecoming candidate activities and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We enjoyed visiting with guests at our tailgating tent. Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2015 on November 7.





## CHAT WITH THE CHANCELLOR

**DR. EVELYN ELLIS**

WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox  
Regional Chancellor

Things at the WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox campus have been fast and furious since my arrival in July 2014. I have had to learn a lot about WKU and the culture of Kentucky at breakneck speed. I am proud to say that my husband and I are enjoying every minute of our relocation! We are treating being here the same as being in another foreign country of assignment. Having added personalized WKU license plates and floor mats to our car--along with stylish WKU scarves, t-shirts, and jewelry to my wardrobe--has forced several folks to ask me about the year in which I graduated from WKU. This question is just proof positive that I am

exuding that great WKU spirit, so I am thrilled to be settling in as a Hilltopper. As I continue to run around with my tongue hanging out (just picture a cute dog coming up to you from a hard run around the block), I look forward to the next semester and the exciting things it will bring. As always, please feel free to stop in and visit us in Elizabethtown or Fort Knox. We will leave the light on!



**SAVE THE  
DATE**



### WKU Elizabethtown - Fort Knox Commencement Ceremony

Monday, May 18  
6:30 p.m.

*Reception to follow*

[Hardin County Performing  
Arts Center](#)

384 W.A. Jenkins Road  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

## CAMPUS NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Gary A. Ransdell hosted a welcome reception on August 26 for the new Regional Chancellor, Dr. Evelyn Ellis. Family members, community members, faculty and staff were all in attendance to congratulate Dr. Ellis. Also in attendance to greet the new Chancellor was Dr. Thelma White, President of Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC). Read more [here](#).



- President Gary A. Ransdell attended the official Hardin County Schools (HCS) Early College and Career Center (EC3) ribbon-cutting ceremony. Partnerships between HCS, EC3 and WKU have created unprecedented educational opportunities for high school and college students in the local area. Read more [here](#).



- WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox has a new ride. WKU faculty and staff at the Elizabethtown-Fort Knox

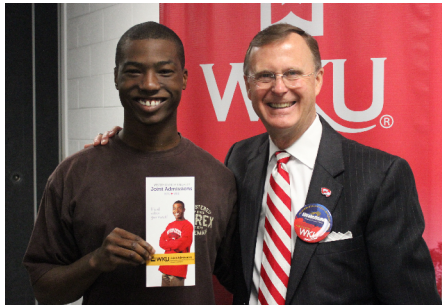


regional campus are now able to travel in the comfort of a 2014 Chevrolet Edge when on official business trips to Bowling Green and other regional campuses.

- WKU's newest IVS classrooms have been installed in Hardin County Schools' Early College & Career Center (EC3) facility.

- Two of WKU's elementary education faculty members, Kathryn Smith and Vivian Robertson retired in June of 2014. Their expertise and experience will be greatly missed.

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



- President Gary A. Ransdell visited with Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) students who were interested in the WKU Joint Admissions Program. He

expressed the benefits of transferring to WKU after they complete their associate degree at ECTC. One lucky ECTC student was chosen from the crowd and received a \$500 scholarship to WKU. Read more [here](#).



- WKU hosted a booth at the Elizabethtown Heartland Festival. WKU sponsored a dunking booth and all proceeds went to the Warm Blessings Soup Kitchen in Elizabethtown. Big Red was there to socialize and take pictures with WKU students, alumni, future Hilltoppers, and other members of the community.

- Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) held its 50th Anniversary Celebration last semester. Prospective students and other community members were given the opportunity to stop by the ECTC & WKU offices to learn about the various programs offered in Hardin County and to participate in family-friendly fun. Lindsey Akers was available in the WKU office to answer questions, while Melia Mattingly and Ronda Sullivan placed Big Red "tattoos" on children attending the event. Sondra Johnson worked the coloring station. The event ended with an Elvis impersonator singing to Big Red! Read more [here](#).



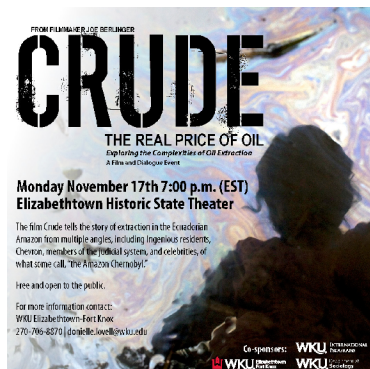
- The WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox Campus Library recognized Banned Book Week. An open discussion was held regarding the reasons Harper Lee's book, *"To Kill a Mockingbird"* has been banned in several public and school libraries across the nation. Students enjoyed getting the opportunity to

express opinions regarding the censorship of creative works.

- WKU Elizabethtown - Fort Knox participated in the 10th annual Hooray for Heroes. This event expresses appreciation for the sacrifices of active, reserve, and veteran military, first responders, and their families. Held on Armed Forces Day each year, the event offers prizes, giveaways, live band music, games for children, free lunch, and much more! Kent Johnson, Heather Garcia, and Big Red came all the way from Bowling Green to join the celebration! Read more [here](#).







- During International Education Week and the International Year of Ecuador, WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox held a screening and discussion for the film *Crude: Exploring the Complexities of Oil Extraction*. This was a great opportunity for

audience participants to analyze and discuss the contradictions in oil exploration. Looking at the legal case between Chevron and the indigenous communities of Ecuador prompted further discussions about oil consumption in such places as the United States and the ripple effect in such places as Ecuador. This film-showing was also a wonderful opportunity for WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox to reach out to local community members via an engaging activity. Read more [here](#).

### NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

- Dr. Amanda Onion, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Teacher Education
- Dr. Larry Owens, Assistant Professor of Social Work

### DID YOU KNOW?

WKU Elizabethtown – Fort Knox is located in two separate cities, 20 miles apart and has classrooms in five separate buildings.



## AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS



- Dr. Donielle Lovell traveled through Ecuador for two weeks to meet with scholars, business people, and community residents. Her fellowship was a Zuheir Sofia Endowed International Faculty Seminar which is intended to be an “interdisciplinary development opportunity for faculty.” Read more [here](#).

- The WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox was the first regional campus to participate in WKU’s \$100 Solution Project. Participating students Charlitha Blackwell, Karl Butts, Kerri Deener, Presley Gardner, Rachel Gardner, Ben Hagy, Lindsay Jewell, Amanda Matthews, Beverly Spires, and Candice Taylor, partnered with Clarity Pregnancy Solutions, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and USA Cares to engage students in community development.

- Megan Richardson, a Middle Grades Education student, represented the WKU Elizabethtown-Fort Knox Campus at the Regional Transfer Summit. This was a collaborative event between WKU and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Megan shared her experiences with regards to transferring from Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) to WKU and suggested ways upon which the transfer process could improve.





## CHAT WITH THE CHANCELLOR

**DR. SALLY RAY**

WKU Glasgow  
Regional Chancellor

In 1988, local leaders and citizens from Glasgow and Barren County gathered with leaders from Western Kentucky University to officially open a WKU campus at Glasgow in the former Liberty Street Elementary and Glasgow High School, situated on the site of Liberty College. More than twenty-five years later, WKU Glasgow has evolved from a humble beginning with limited course offerings, a staff of one, and an enrollment of 700 students, to a vibrant campus that delivers a wide variety of degree programs, works collaboratively with KCTCS, enrolls more than 1600



students, and employs close to 100 full-time and part-time faculty and staff.

Since its establishment, WKU's Glasgow Campus has provided thousands of students in southcentral and southeastern Kentucky access to a college degree who otherwise might not have had the opportunity to pursue higher education. WKU Glasgow exemplifies the fact that regional campuses are indeed dynamic, vital, and relevant. In the spirit of shared responsibility for the future of WKU and the students we serve, the faculty and staff of WKU Glasgow recently completed a five-year strategic plan. Deeply rooted in WKU's Challenging the Spirit Action Plan, WKU Glasgow's strategic plan is designed to provide clarity and direction in uncertain times as we build on our strengths, overcome existing challenges, and take full advantage of exciting opportunities.

**SAVE THE DATE**



### WKU Glasgow Graduand Ceremony

*A pre-commencement ceremony*

Thursday, May 7  
6:30 p.m.

Glasgow Plaza Theatre  
115 E Main Street  
Glasgow, Kentucky

## CAMPUS NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WKU Military Student Services is expanding to WKU Glasgow in fall 2015. Read more [here](#).

- WKU Glasgow opens the START Center. The START Center will provide WKU, dual credit and SKYCTC students the opportunity to access tutoring services in one location at WKU Glasgow. Tutoring services that can be received at the START Center include math, writing, foreign language, chemistry, and the potential for more tutoring services in various disciplines. Read more [here](#).







- WKU Glasgow Library completed its first phase of improvements – The entrance leading into the libraries old solid wood doors have been replaced with glass etched with WKU Libraries to promote a welcoming

and open environment. Ten new large screen computers were added along with four additional computers. Workstations were rearranged for a more functional area. Lastly, a circulating leisure reading section has been added. Read more [here](#).

### ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



- In March 2015, WKU Glasgow faculty conducted a new Study Away program called, “The Kentucky Experience.” With 19 students participating, a team of dedicated WKU Glasgow faculty spent spring break touring different regions of Kentucky and explored how the Commonwealth’s history is shaped by the landscape and the people who make Kentucky their home. Visits included Bardstown, Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Frankfort, Lexington, Cumberland Falls State Park and points in between. Students received course credit for up to two classes in Geography of Kentucky and Kentucky History. Read more [here](#).

### DID YOU KNOW?

The roots of Western Kentucky University go back to 1875 with the founding of the privately owned Glasgow Normal School in Glasgow, Kentucky.

- WKU Glasgow hosted its annual speech contest. The contest is comprised of students who are enrolled in both divisions of COMM 145 (Business and Professional Speaking) and (Fundamentals of Public Speaking), general education courses on all of WKU campuses. The speakers are chosen with the most effective presentation from the COMM 145 divisions to represent each respective class at the WKU Glasgow Speech Contest. Read more [here](#).

### NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

- Ms. Caitlin Dresing, Library Assistant
- Mr. Timothy Gilliam, Instructor of Political Science
- Mr. Ronald Hopper, Instructor of Sociology
- Ms. Kacie Martin, Student Manager for Bookstore
- Ms. Anita Petett, Office Assistant for Advising
- Ms. Linda Pittman, Maintenance
- Ms. Sharon Vance, Bookstore Cashier

## AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ms. Patricia Witcher, Instructor of Communication, was the 2014 recipient of the Kentucky Communication Association Teacher of the Year Award and presented at the KCA Convention in September of 2014.

## ALUMNI NOTES

- Natalie Raymer, Fall 2014 graduate of WKU and current graduate student at WKU, will be an intern for Jack Conway’s campaign for Governor throughout this year.
- Anastasia Doyle, a Psychological Sciences major and Fall 2014 graduate, was hired in January at Communicare in Elizabethtown as a Residential Supervisor.



# CHAMPION'S CORNER



## MEET: PATRICIA WITCHER, COMM INSTRUCTOR

**Job description:** As an instructor, I teach five courses in communication every semester (typically three sections of COMM 145, one section of COMM 145B, and one section of

COMM 263). In addition to lesson planning and prep work for my classes, I also serve on various committees. I am the chair of the WKU Glasgow Speech Contest every fall semester, and attend conferences/seminars for professional development.

**Achievements:** I won the Kentucky Communication Association Teacher of the Year Award at the annual KCA Convention in September 2014. I was also nominated for the Potter College Arts and Letters Teaching Award in November 2013.

**What gets me excited about coming to work:** The thing I enjoy most is helping students realize that they can do anything they put their minds to (even successfully giving a speech), as well as the impact communication has on all of our lives.

**Most memorable moments at WKU:** My most memorable moments would have to be during the Spring 2012, Spring 2014, and Fall 2014 Speech Contests when WKU Glasgow COMM students won first or second place.

**Advice/words to live by:** One piece of advice I would give is to know yourself. This will help you figure out your strengths, your weaknesses, what you're passionate about, the kind of person you want to be, etc.



## MEET: PHYLLIS REED, COORDINATOR, ACADEMIC SERVICES, WKU GLASGOW

**Job Description:** I coordinate WKU Glasgow's academic advising office, fifth week assessments and retention efforts. I meet with students each

semester for registration, and I work with departments to schedule classes at WKU Glasgow. Also, I coordinate with school of teacher education scheduling teacher orientation, completion of files, testing, etc. for all education majors at WKU Glasgow.

**Achievements:** I have worked in advising at WKU Glasgow since October 1998.

**What gets me excited about coming to work:** I enjoy coming to work every day because every day is different. I get to work with students, faculty, staff, and community leaders in a variety of ways to provide leadership and promote our campus.

**Most memorable moments at WKU:** I have many memorable moments at WKU Glasgow. The most rewarding times are when students come to see me at graduation and tell me how I gave them guidance and courage to accomplish their dream.

**Advice/words to live by:** My best piece of advice is to do your best, enjoy your work, and appreciate every day.



## MEET: SONYA MICHELLE HAMRICK, STUDENT

**Major:** Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies

**Why did you choose WKU Glasgow?** I chose WKU Glasgow because it was a small campus where I could get

one-on-one time with my instructors. The campus is also conveniently located close to my home.

**What do you plan to do with your education?** I plan on starting a non-profit organization to help the underprivileged citizens of my community. I will also be seeking a masters degree in Counseling.

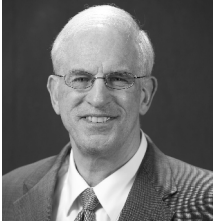
**Do you have any achievements that you would like to share?** I am retired from the United States Navy.

**What gets you excited to come to school every day?** I get excited knowing that I will see fellow friends and students.

**Briefly describe your most memorable moment at WKU?** My most memorable moment was when I discovered that I was named a Presidential Scholar.

**Share your best piece of advice or words you live by?** My best advice would be that there are twenty-four hours in a day. Pick an hour and do something to relax and enjoy yourself.





## CHAT WITH THE CHANCELLOR

### DR. GENE TICE

WKU Owensboro  
Regional Chancellor

I am excited that the regional campuses are working together to let the entire WKU population know about the great things happening on our campuses through this newsletter. We are proud of our faculty, staff and students that make WKU Owensboro the success that it is. I have been amazed to hear some of the stories of our students. Many regional campus students are not the traditional students that you see on the Bowling Green campus. Our student population has an average age of 31, and a majority of our students have families, full-time jobs and community and civic duties. They balance all of this with their academic studies. They sacrifice their time, finances and

sometimes even health to get their degrees.

We are student focused, placing an emphasis on practical academic programs that lead to successful careers in the greater Owensboro area.



## SAVE THE DATE



### WKU Owensboro Commencement Ceremony

Monday, May 18

6:30 p.m.

*Reception to follow*

[RiverPark Center](#)

101 Daviess Street

Owensboro, Kentucky

## CAMPUS NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WKU Owensboro Social Work Student Union was officially registered with the office of Student Affairs as a university organization.
- WKU Owensboro signed a Joint Admissions Agreement with Ivy Tech Community College - Southwest.

### ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- To the Lost: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the First World War – WKU Owensboro, Owensboro Community and Technical College and the Daviess County Public Library collaborated on an event series commemorating the 100th anniversary of WWI. The event series included a movie showing, topic presentations by guest speakers and a memorabilia preservation presentation. Read more [here](#).

- Welcome Back Week Festivities – WKU Owensboro staff welcomed students during the first week of Fall classes. Students, faculty and staff played a football toss game to win prizes.



- The Center for Career and Professional Development gave a presentation to the WKU Owensboro students about a variety of topics including dressing for interviews, resume building, job searching and developing professional skills. Students also had the opportunity to take professional headshots for use on social media through a Professional You event.



- WKU Owensboro hosted a Transfer Day. OCTC students had the opportunity to meet with academic advisors, talk with a financial aid representative

and fill out an admissions application on-site. Forty-seven students filled out admissions applications during this event.

- In collaboration with The Confucius Institute, WKU Owensboro has helped bring Chinese teachers to the Owensboro and Daviess County school systems. WKU Owensboro is also collaborating with The Confucius Institute to create a classroom at the Owensboro campus to promote Chinese medicine. Read more [here](#).

### NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

April Murphy, Assistant Professor of Social Work, joined WKU Owensboro in 2014.

## AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS

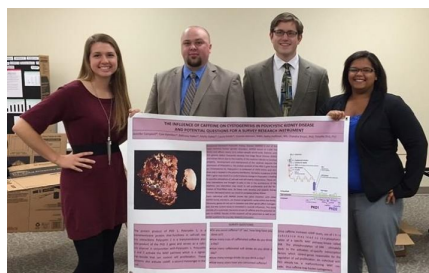
- WKU Owensboro staff member, Brooklyn Foster, was named Alumna of the Year by the WKU Alumni Association at the Summit Awards. Read more [here](#).



- WKU Owensboro received the 2014 Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award in the Education and

Workforce Development category. Read more [here](#).

- WKU Owensboro received the 2014 Presidential Junior Achievement Awards for participation and support of the Junior Achievement program. Read more [here](#).



Joshua Castlen and Jennifer Campbell, who are with the Phi Theta Kappa chapter advised by Dr. Timothy Dick at Owensboro Community & Technical College.

- Congratulations to WKU Owensboro biology students from Dr. Chandra Emani's Genetics class.

(left to right): Bethany Oakes, Aaron Hall,

They presented their research at the "Conference For Student Research" held at Western Kentucky Community College in Paducah. Out of 19 groups that participated, they were voted as one of the Top 5 to be invited to the State Capitol in February to participate in the event known as "Posters at the Capitol", where research from all colleges and universities are displayed for the state legislature.

At Frankfort, they will be interacting with Kentucky lawmakers and discuss research topics and the potential impact of their results. Also, this group of students will be continuing their research on using basil plants to treat polycystic kidney disease in a collaborative research project with Dr. Chandra Emani (WKU Owensboro) and Dr. Timothy Dick (OCTC).



- [Dr. Chandra Emani](#), assistant professor of plant molecular biology at WKU Owensboro, is conducting extensive research on the pharmaceutical and therapeutic benefits of the basil plant. His research involves genetic engineering of the basil plant to exploit its potential as a plant pharmaceutical source to treat cancer. He has received multiple grants to support the expansion of his research. Dr. Emani and student Roger Dame were awarded a



Faculty-Undergraduate Student Engagement (FUSE) internal grant from the WKU Office of Research and Dr. Emani was awarded a Research and Creative Activities Program grant from WKU's Office of Research.

## ALUMNI NOTES

The Owensboro Alumni Chapter received the Spirit of Distinction recognition at the 2014 Summit Awards. Read more [here](#).

## CHAMPION'S CORNER

### MEET: APRIL MURPHY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK



**Job Description:** I am predominately responsible for teaching BSW courses and student advising on the Owensboro campus. However, I also have the opportunity to teach on other regional campuses and in the MSW program as

needed. To some degree, I am also responsible for recruitment of students at the community college (OCTC). Outside of teaching, I am involved in research related to child welfare and beginning a research agenda in the area of human trafficking.

**Achievements:** I was nominated for the Faculty Teaching Award, and I was able to get the Social Work Student Union in Owensboro registered as an official student organization.

**What gets you excited to come to work every day?:** Honestly, the students and staff. The staff at WKU Owensboro are amazing people who truly care about students. That energy and dedication is infectious, and I am just happy to be a part of such a great team.

**Most memorable moment at WKU:** Attending the

### DID YOU KNOW?

Thirty-five percent of WKU Owensboro students commute from rural counties outside of Owensboro/Daviess County.

Hall of Distinguished Alumni luncheon. It was an honor to hear alumni's stories and the impact that they

had on both WKU and society as a whole.



**Best piece of advice:** Live with integrity... without it, nothing else matters!

### MEET: BROOKLYN FOSTER, BUSINESS COORDINATOR

**Job Description:** I manage the fiscal responsibilities of the WKU Owensboro campus.

**Achievements:** I received the WKU Alumnus of the Year Award in 2014.

**What gets you excited to come to work every day?:** Having traveled the path of a non-traditional student, I have full confidence in the service we are providing the community as a result of WKU having a presence in Owensboro. There is an energy in our building. Once we are able to couple the energy with the drive and vigor of the students, we have created this awesome vivaciousness that resounds through the walls. So my excitement every day comes from the challenge of continuously providing an environment that generates momentum and liveliness for our student population. This comes in many forms. One day it could be balancing our budget numbers in order to bring more resources to the campus, and another may be planning the next semester's schedule or an activity/cultural event. Another may be brainstorming retention efforts or strategic plans to grow enrollment or planning artwork for the hallway walls to enhance the student's experience.

**Most memorable moment at WKU:** I have had so many! Receiving the Alumnus of the Year Award this past year was pretty awesome. My undergraduate commencement was in Bowling Green and it was really neat being a part of the large ceremony. However, when I walked the commencement ceremony in Owensboro for my MPA, the experience was absolutely thrilling! My entire family along with my child and husband were a part of that very special day. It was fantastic for my little girl to be able to see how much that degree means. It's something that you work so hard for, and no one can take it away from you.